

Record Breaking Year for Tornadoes Across Alabama

Alabama observed a record-breaking total of 77 tornadoes during 2005. This large number of tornadoes surpassed the previous record of 56 tornadoes which occurred in 2004.

The 2005 hurricane season, the most active on record, is largely responsible for Alabama's record-breaking year for tornadoes. During 2005, 49 of the 77 tornadoes resulted from tropical systems affecting the state. In fact, 23 tornadoes occurred on September 25th due to Hurricane Rita with 10 tornadoes touching down in Tuscaloosa County alone.

Advances in technology have allowed meteorologists to go into the field to survey severe storm damage. With the help of science and technology, more training has been developed on surveying storm damage. Only a decade ago, NWS meteorologists were frequently unable to go into the field, so many severe weather reports were taken as truth and not surveyed by experts.

Years with Over 50 Tornadoes

1957 2001
1973 2004
1974 2005
1998

Tornadoes During 2005 by NWS Office Area

2 - North Alabama (HUN)
57 - Central Alabama (BMX)
17 - Southwest Alabama (MOB)
1 - Southeast Alabama (TAE)

Dates of 2005 Tornado Outbreaks (5 or more tornadoes)

April 30
July 6
August 28-29
September 25
November 28

Dates and Number of Tornadoes From 2005 Tropical Systems

July 6 (Cindy) 16
August 28-29 (Katrina) 10
September 25 (Rita) 23

Alabama Tornado Count by Year

1950-2005 (Average is 26 per Year)

